REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 5-23 are pending. Claims 2-4 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claims 1, 11, 14, and 16 have been amended. New claims 21-23 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gilmore (US 4,222,671).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 as amended is novel and patentable over Gilmore because, for instance, Gilmore does not teach or suggest that the first regions of zero depth of the first path and the second regions of zero depth of the second path are staggered along one continuous internal flow path, such that the first regions of zero depth of the first path of the first body overlap with the second cavities of the second body, and the second regions of zero depth of the second path of the second body overlap with the first cavities of the first body. These features are shown, for example, in Fig. 3 of the present application.

In Gilmore, the cavities overlap with each other fully, so that there is no overlap between the zero depth regions on one body with the cavities of the other body. See, e.g., Figs. 2, 4, and 5. Other embodiments in Gilmore do not show one continuous internal flow path with the first regions of zero depth of the first path and the second regions of zero depth of the second path staggered therealong.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and claims 5-10 depending therefrom are novel and patentable over Gilmore.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 as amended is novel and patentable over Gilmore because, for instance, Gilmore does not teach or suggest that the first regions of shallow depth of the first mating surface and the second regions of shallow depth are staggered along one continuous internal flow path, such that the first regions of shallow depth of the first mating surface of the first shell overlap with the second cavities of the second shell, and the second regions of shallow depth of the second mating surface of the second shell overlap with the first cavities of the first shell.

As discussed above, the embodiments do not show one continuous internal flow path with the first regions of shallow depth of the first path and the second regions of shallow depth of the second path staggered therealong. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 11, and claims 12-15 and 23 depending therefrom, are novel and patentable over Gilmore.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 16 as amended is novel and patentable over Gilmore because, for instance, Gilmore does not teach or suggest that the first regions of zero depth of the first path and the second regions of zero depth of the second path are staggered along one continuous internal flow path, such that the first regions of zero depth of the first path of the first body overlap with the second cavities of the second body, and the second regions of zero depth of the second path of the second body overlap with the first cavities of the first body.

As discussed above, the embodiments do not show one continuous internal flow path with the first regions of zero depth of the first path and the second regions of zero depth of the second path staggered therealong. For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 16 and claims 17-22 depending therefrom are novel and patentable over Gilmore.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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